

PENDING CLAIMS AS AMENDED

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) In a spread spectrum communication system, a method for transmitting data from a plurality of transmission sources, comprising:

defining time slots for data transmission, wherein each time slot corresponds to a particular time interval;

assigning each time slot to one or more transmission sources; and

enabling each of the plurality of transmission sources to transmit data on assigned time slots; wherein phasing of each assigned time slot is set to allow for receipt of an [[ACK]] acknowledgement or a [[NAK]] negative acknowledgement prior to a next transmission of that assigned time slot.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the time slots are associated with a plurality of N phases, and wherein the assigning comprises

assigning each of the N phases to a respective set of one or more transmission sources for a particular duration of time to allow for receipt of the [[ACK]] acknowledgement or [[NAK.]] negative acknowledgement.

3. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
staggering data transmissions from the plurality of transmission sources such that the data transmissions are non-overlapping, time-wise, for at least a particular duration of time.

4. (Original) The method of claim 3, wherein the amount of staggering is dependent on data rates of the data transmissions from the plurality of transmission sources.

5. (Original) The method of claim 1, further comprising:  
determining a particular level of interference to achieve for at least one transmission source; and

identifying one or more interfering transmission sources contributing to the interference,  
and

wherein the assigning is performed to achieve the particular level of interference for the at least one transmission source.

6. (Original) The method of claim 1, wherein the data to be transmitted is for a control channel in the communication system.

7. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting data from a plurality of cells in a wireless communication system, comprising:

defining time slots for data transmission, wherein each time slot corresponds to a predetermined time interval to allow receipt of an [[ACK]] acknowledgement or a [[NAK;]] negative acknowledgement;

associating the time slots with N phases, wherein N is greater than one;

assigning each of the N phases to a respective set of one or more cells for a particular duration of time; and

enabling data transmission at each of the plurality of cells on one or more phases assigned to the cell.

8. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4,]] 7, wherein N is four.

9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4,]] 7, further comprising:  
staggering data transmissions from the plurality of cells to reduce interference.

10. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6,]] 9, wherein the staggering is achieved by

assigning each of the plurality of cells to a respective one of the N phases for the particular duration of time.

11. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6,]] 9, further comprising:

sending messages indicative of a particular staggering pattern to be used for transmission of traffic data.

12. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6,]] 9, further comprising:  
increasing data rates of the data transmissions from the plurality of cells as a result of the staggering.

13. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6,]] 9, wherein the amount of staggering is based on data rates used for the data transmissions.

14. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[6,]] 9, further comprising:  
designating a particular number of time slots within each transmission cycle whereby data transmissions from the plurality of cells are staggered, wherein each transmission cycle includes a plurality of time slots.

15. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4,]] 7, further comprising:  
identifying, from among the plurality of cells, a disadvantaged cell experiencing excessive interference;  
identifying one or more interfering cells contributing to the excessive interference; and  
assigning the one or more interfering cells to different phases than the phase assigned to the disadvantaged cell.

16. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4,]] 7, further comprising:  
assigning one or more phases to a particular cell for the particular duration of time; and  
for the particular duration of time, preventing remaining ones of the plurality of cells from transmitting on the one or more phases assigned to the particular cell.

17. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4,]] 7, further comprising:  
assigning one or more phases to a particular cell for the particular duration of time;

transmitting, from the particular cell, data at a particular data rate on the one or more assigned phases; and

for the particular duration of time, preventing remaining ones of the plurality of cells from transmitting on the one or more phases assigned to the particular cell to enable the cell to achieve reliable data transmission at the particular data rate.

18. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[14,]] 17, wherein the particular data rate is a lowest data rate supported by the communication system.

19. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4,]] 7, wherein data transmission from at least one of the plurality of cells is for a control channel.

20. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[16,]] 19, wherein each data transmission on the control channel is identified by a preamble included in the data transmission.

21. (Currently Amended) The method of claim [[4,]] 7, the communication system is a CDMA communication system.

22. (Currently Amended) A method for transmitting data from a plurality of cells in a CDMA communication system, comprising:

defining time slots for data transmission, wherein each time slot corresponds to a predetermined time interval;

associating the time slots with four different phases, wherein each successive group of four time slots includes four time slots respectively associated with the four different phases;

assigning each of the four phases to a respective set of one or more cells for a particular duration of time, wherein the cells are assigned phases such that data transmissions from the plurality of cells are staggered to reduce interference; wherein phasing of each assigned time slot is set to allow for receipt of an [[ACK]] acknowledgement or a [[NAK]] negative acknowledgement prior to a next transmission of that assigned time slot; and

enabling data transmission at each of the plurality of cells on one or more phases assigned to the cell.

23. (Currently Amended) An access point in a wireless communication systems, comprising:

a data processor configured to receive and process a data packet to provide a plurality of slots; and

a controller operatively coupled to the data processor and configured to direct transmission of the plurality of slots over a plurality of time slots assigned to the access point, to phase each assigned time slot to allow for receipt of an [[ACK]] acknowledgement or a [[NAK]] negative acknowledgement prior to a next transmission of that assigned time slot; and to prevent transmission over one or more time slots designated for no transmission by the access point.

24. (Currently Amended) The access point of claim [[20,]] 23, wherein the data packet includes a field indicative of an offset for the plurality of time slots assigned for transmission of the data packet.